

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 120915Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4198

S E C R E T BEIRUT 10772

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJ: CHINESE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS

1. AT RECENT DINNER PARTY I WAS SURPRISED TO HAVE COMMUNIST CHINESE AMBASSADOR HSU MING SEEK OUT CHAIR NEXT TO ME AND ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION. HERETOFORE HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN RELATIVELY CORDIAL, BUT SLIGHTLY ALOOF.

2. AMBASSADOR ASKED IF I HAD NOTED SECTION IN TENTH PARTY CONGRESS REPORT URGING CHINESE PEOPLE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES AGAINST POSSIBLE SOVIET ATTACK. (HE SPOKE IN HALTING BUT INTELLIGIBLE ENGLISH AND AVOIDED USE OF INTERPRETER WHO SAT NEXT TO HIM).

3. I INQUIRED WHETHER HE REALLY EXPECTED SOVIETS WOULD ATTACK CHINA. AFTER SLIGHT HESITATION, HE SAID HE DOUBTED IT BECAUSE THEY KNEW CHINESE WOULD BE ABLE TO REPEL THEM SUCCESSFULLY. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOVIETS TRADITIONALLY SEEK OUT THE WEAKER RATHER THAN THE STRONGER TARGET AND FELT THEY WOULD BE CONCENTRATING ON EUROPEANS, ESPECIALLY GERMANY AND YUGOSLAVIA, PICKING THEM OFF ONE BY ONE AS SITUATION PERMITS. HE ARGUED THAT CURRENT SOVIET TACTIC IS TO DIVIDE EUROPEANS FROM EACH OTHER AND US FROM EUROPE.

4. AS TABLE TALK BECAME MORE GENERAL, PREVENTING
SECRET

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CONTINUATION OF THIS DIALOGUE, HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE SUBJECT WITH ME IN FUTURE AND HOPED I WOULD GIVE HIM A CALL, WHICH I SHALL DO.
BUFFUM

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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